

Table of Contents

Employee Spotlights	pg. 2
Recruitment Updates	pg. 3
Happenings	pg. 3
New Baby	pg. 4
In Memoriam	pg. 4
Wellness	pg. 4



News & Views

September 15, 2023

The City of New Hope's Employee Newsletter

Sergeant and Officers Sworn In



Congratulations to Sergeant **Miguel Robles** and Officers **Isaiah Gorman** and **Matthias Waldemar** for being sworn in at the July 24 city council meeting. Miguel started with the City in July 2007 and served as a drug task force and then K-9 officer for many years before being promoted to sergeant in July of 2022. Isaiah started with the City in June of 2021 as a CSO before being promoted to officer in July of 2022. Mathias started with the City in January of 2022 as a CSO and continued in that position until his promotion to officer in July of 2022 as well. The City is very fortunate to have these three individuals continuing to advance in their careers here at New Hope. Also pictured, administering the oath is City Clerk **Valerie Leone**. *Photo credit: Beth Kramer, communications coordinator*

Mark Claycomb, Maintenance Worker, Retires

A very humble Mr. Claycomb, pictured at his retirement celebration, graciously agreed to answer a few questions as he was winding up his over 24 years with the City last month.

Mark shared that when he applied for the position of mechanic with the City in 1999, it wasn't because he wanted to work for New Hope specifically, but rather because he had heard that a city job was a good one to have. Turns out what he'd heard was right! After ten years as a mechanic, he transferred to a maintenance worker position. He was looking for more variety on a daily basis and the maintenance worker position fit the bill. When asked what's changed over the years, Mark said there is a lot more to do now as the City continues to grow more complex and is relied on for more services.

What's next? Mark says that he has a large yard to spend time on. He looks forward to spending time with his grandsons; including shooting trap with the oldest. He's also planning to stay active by helping his son with his window install business. He said that he didn't need to share any advice as, "everyone around here knows what needs to be done. It's a good crew." Mark, your smile, your willingness to always help and your genuine interest in your coworkers' wellbeing will be greatly missed. Thank you. We wish you many, many years of happy retirement!



Mark Your Calendar:

Sept. 16 – Vehicle Fair
Sept. 19 – Commissioner Bus Tour
Sept. 22 – Mpls Chamber/New Hope Golf Outing
Sept. 26 – Employee Golf Outing
Sept. 27 – Wacky Wednesday

Sept. 28 – Wellness: Summer Picnic and Grilling Safety
Sept. 29 – Crime Prevention Fund Night Golf Tournament
Sept. 30 – Movie in the Park: Harry Potter
Oct. 4 – Deferred Comp. Presentation/Employee Meetings
Oct. 25 – Wacky Wednesday
Oct. 27 – Open Enrollment Starts (runs through Nov. 12)

New Employee Spotlights

Magaly Velasquez, Police Clerk

If you've not yet met the City's newest police clerk, please stop by the station between 3 and 11 p.m. and introduce yourself. Magaly was born in Los Angeles, but her family moved to South Minneapolis when she was two and they have lived in the area since. Her mom provides daycare for family and her dad works in Chaska manufacturing medical equipment parts. Magaly's twin sister lives in Brooklyn Park and she also has two older sisters that live in the area as well.



Magaly and her fiancé, Felix, have lived in Ham Lake since 2020 when they decided they wanted to move out of the city and buy some property. Their current home sits on two acres where they enjoy walking their 18-month-old Yorkipoo, Rambo. Magaly says that while Rambo is only 7 pounds, he has a BIG presence.

Prior to starting at New Hope on July 24, Magaly worked from home in customer service. However, she said that she has taken classes in criminal justice and wants to resume that path in the future. She thought a position in the police department would be a good opportunity to gain experience in the field. Felix works from home for Wells Fargo.

Magaly and Felix enjoy being home, but they do also spend time with family. Felix's family is large and enjoys barbequing. He also plays soccer, so you'll often find them at matches. And they do enjoy traveling a bit. San Diego and Vegas are favorite destinations for the good food and lively atmospheres. However, perhaps a new favorite is Ecuador. It is where Felix is originally from. This last February, he took Magaly for her first trip so she could meet family and to propose! Welcome, Magaly!

Chelsea Smith, Police Officer



The City was very excited to have Chelsea start with the police department on Aug. 7, completing the full complement of 34 sworn personnel for the first time in several years!

She was born in Saint Paul but moved as an infant to Stillwater where her dad still lives. Chelsea lives in Oakdale as does her mom not far from Chelsea's townhouse. She has three siblings. Her older brother is also in Stillwater and has two sons. Her two younger siblings, both born in Guatemala, still live with their parents in Stillwater, one while going to school at St. Thomas and the other working at Ford.

Chelsea enjoys being active and spends a lot of time with her dad's side of the family at Balsam Lake where they jet ski, swim and pontoon. She said that some of the family fishes, but it's not really her thing. Her dad was with the Air National Guard and as a kid she would attend the National Guard Youth Camp at Camp Ripley, now she volunteers annually at the

same camp. She enjoys watching and attending Wild, Vikings and Twins games. She played soccer throughout childhood but quit when she started college to focus on classes.

When she needs to be inside, she enjoys playing Hand and Foot with her Grandma Norma (*pictured here with Chelsea*) or hanging out with friends. She does also love to travel and says that anywhere with sunny beaches will work!

As I said, we're excited to have you here, Chelsea and hope that you find New Hope to your liking. Welcome!

Krissy Barthel, Utility Billing Clerk

The City's newest employee hails from Saint Michael where she and her husband, Nick, live with their children Madison and Zach. However, Krissy points to the fact that Nick, who was born in Saint Michael, is quick to point out that she's not from there, as she lived in Zimmerman until third grade. They all share their home with Henry, a senior and rather rotund domestic feline, and Sgoldy, a school-carnival prize goldfish.

Krissy's first day with the City was Aug. 28. Nick works in the HVAC industry as a manager with a company in Edina. And yes, he makes that drive nearly every day. Madison is a senior in high school and is looking forward to a little more time for herself after completing her time as princess royalty around the state this last year. Zach has started kindergarten and is very excited to be in school! (*pictured is the entire family on Zach's first day!*)

Krissy and Nick enjoy spending time around home and that works well, as Krissy's parents and two older sisters and

their families, along with Nick's parents, and families of his two sisters and brothers all live within 30 minutes or so of Saint Michael. As a family, they enjoy driveway fires with neighbors, ice fishing with friends and taking walks on the neighborhood path that runs by their home. They also enjoy playing card games such as Horse Race and Clean & Dirty, and attending church on Sunday.

Nick does most of the cooking and enjoys making meals on his Blackstone flat top gas grill. Fried rice is one of his specialties. Before coming to New Hope, Krissy was a manager for River Inn and in her free time she still enjoys helping with the family catering business, Broaster Catering.

When asked what might surprise us about her, she shared that she is a certified forklift driver and that she's not as shy as she might seem at first.

Welcome Krissy, we're glad you decided to stay a little closer to home than Nick and work with us here in New Hope!



Recruitment Updates

Community Service Officer: The preferred candidate is in the final stages of meeting pre-employment conditions. A late September start date is anticipated.

Maintenance Worker: The preferred candidate is in the process of meeting pre-employment conditions. An early October start date is anticipated.

Happenings

Safety Camp, Aug. 15-17

Congratulations to city staff and volunteers for hosting another successful three-day event for 63 campers. The campers participated in various safety sessions including construction, fire, personal and water safety



plus many others throughout the week. On the last day of camp, staff held a graduation dinner for families where the campers received certificates and medals. The primary staff involved were as follows:

Safety Camp Coordinators: **Brad Kallio**, police; **Aaron Thelen**, parks & recreation; **Shelby Wolf**, West Metro

Safety Camp Leaders: **Josh Arthur**, **Britni Austin**, Pat Beaumaster, **Sabrina DeMars**—police; **Brianna Gallup**, **Abby Hansen**, **Abigail Hanson**—parks & recreation; **Olivia Brown**, **Jesus Soto**—West Metro

Other city staff: **Laurie Dube**, **Dan Fitzmaurice**, **Tim Hoyt**, **Beth Kramer**, **Tony Portesan**, **Miguel Robles**, **Jill Smisek**, **Penny Spitzer**, **Lorilee Stafford**, **Pete Stanley**, West Metro firefighters, and additional staff from both public works and parks & recreation. Plus, many police and parks & recreation volunteers. Photo credit: Lorilee Stafford



Employee Club Dip-off, Sept. 14

Employee Club sponsored its third annual dip-off, yesterday. Seven employees entered their favorite dips for judging by their peers. As you can see from the photo, last year's champion, **Shari Rains**, passed the trophy to two winners. **Linda Bergemann** (left) and **Krissy Barthel** tied for first with their Jalapeno Popper and Buffalo Chicken dips respectively. Congratulations to both Linda and Krissy! Thank you to everyone that attended and the other chefs: Beth Kramer, Shawn Markham, Walker MacBeath, Shari Rains and Carrie Reid. It was a delightfully delicious dip-off for all participants.

New Baby

Congratulations to **Cole Anderson**, maintenance worker, and his wife, Brianna, on the birth of baby Jolie on Sept. 6. Jolie was welcomed home by siblings Reyna and Adyson!



In Memoriam

Our sympathies to:

- **Susan Rader** and her family for the passing of her mother-in-law, Hilaria, on July 25.
- **Steve Ellingson** and his family for the passing of his brother on July 31.
- **Vicki Thompson** and her family for the passing of her mother-in-law, Marcia, on Aug. 20.

Wellness

Foundations of Investment – Aug. 9

Seventeen staff participated in a presentation by Aaron Lindman with Edward Jones. Aaron emphasized the value of the PERA pension but also in having additional reserves for the transition period from fully employed to retirement, and as a supplement to ensure you can live the life you wish in retirement.

Vaccination Clinics – Sept. 13 and 14

Hy-Vee staff provided one or more of the flu, hepatitis b, shingles, pneumonia and Covid-19 vaccinations to 21 individuals. Thank you to everyone that participated for taking an active role in preventative care that benefits us all.

Summer Picnic and Grilling Safety – Sept. 28

Get outside and enjoy fall with your colleagues. As we eat, Deputy Fire Marshal **Shelby Wolf** will present on grilling safety and share some of the mistakes she's witnessed during her time as fire marshal. A variety of freshly grilled brats and hamburgers with all the trimmings, buns, chips, side salads, dessert and refreshing bottled water. Submit your \$5 to Walker MacBeath by Monday, Sept. 25 at end of day or public works employees, please give your payment to Gina Karstens by Tuesday, Sept. 26 at noon.

Outdoor Activity Passes – orders due today

Employees have the option to purchase a one-year Minnesota state parks permit, five rounds at New Hope Golf or two tickets at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum for the cost of \$15. The City will cover the remaining cost. If you are interested, return a copy of the flyer emailed earlier this month with your choice indicated and \$15. If you have any questions, call Walker at x5111.

Wild Games – Fall/Winter

There was considerable interest in Wild tickets and as an alternative to organizing a group purchase, they've given us access to their corporate newsletter that will include special offers and discounts through the season. Look for these from Walker MacBeath approximately once a month.

